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**GILCHRIST SENTENCED TO 112 YEARS FOR
ARMED ROBBERY AND CAR JACKING**

Greenbelt, Maryland - United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced today that Derrell Lamont Gilchrist, age 26, of Lake Largo Drive, Largo, Maryland was sentenced today by the Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow to 112 years in prison and ordered to pay \$54,595 in restitution in connection with Gilchrist's jury conviction on January 17, 2003 of three counts of armed bank robbery, four counts of use of a handgun in furtherance of a violent crime, felon in possession of a firearm, armed car jacking and conspiracy.

Evidence presented during the two week trial established that on March 15, 2001, Gilchrist entered the Columbia Bank, 7505 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland, masked and armed with a handgun. Prior to entering the bank, the bank manager saw Gilchrist outside the building without a mask. In the hallway outside the bank's lobby, Gilchrist encountered a customer who had already left the bank, and demanded at gunpoint that the customer return to the bank and get on the floor. Gilchrist then demanded money by pointing the gun at tellers and customers. Gilchrist received approximately \$10,808 in federally insured money before fleeing in his black Jeep Cherokee.

On April 25, 2001, Gilchrist entered the Bank of America, 10200 Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville, Maryland and demanded money by pointing a handgun at tellers and customers. At one point, Gilchrist, who was masked, told a teller that if she provided a “dye pack” he would shoot the customers in the bank. The teller removed the dye pack. Gilchrist received approximately \$12,029 in federally insured money before fleeing on foot.

On June 13, 2001, Gilchrist and a taller, thinner African-American man, both masked and armed with handguns, entered the Suntrust Bank, 3911 62d Avenue, Landover Hills, Maryland. They demanded money by pointing the gun at tellers and customers. A customer who had just left the bank identified Gilchrist as the person who approached the bank with another masked man. Gilchrist had put on his mask as he entered the bank’s front door. Gilchrist and his co-conspirator received approximately \$10,742 in federally insured money. Gilchrist’s co-conspirator, while brandishing his weapon, grabbed the keys of a bank customer and stole the customer’s red minivan to escape from the robbery scene.

On or about July 8, 2002, Gilchrist hired a prostitute in Washington D.C. After the prostitute performed a sexual act on Gilchrist, Gilchrist pointed a gun at the prostitute and robbed her of \$800 in cash and a pager. Gilchrist also robbed another prostitute and two customers of additional cash and threatened to kill all four.

On July 13, 2002, Gilchrist and a taller, thinner African-American man pointed a gun at Raymond Redden at 1441 McCormick Drive in Landover, Maryland and demanded his car. At the time, Redden was a plainclothes police officer leaving his office for training. Gilchrist approached Mr. Redden and spoke to him; his co-conspirator acted as a lookout. After Mr. Redden relinquished his keys by putting them on the front seat for Gilchrist, Gilchrist told Mr. Redden to get on the ground because Gilchrist was going to “cap him.” Gilchrist and Mr. Redden then struggled over

the gun. In the midst of the struggle, Gilchrist discharged his weapon but was unable to fire it again because Mr. Redden jammed the casing inside. At this time, Gilchrist yelled to his co-conspirator at least three times to kill Mr. Redden. The co-conspirator came closer to the two men with his own handgun, but was unable to get a clean shot at Mr. Redden. Mr. Redden was pushed to the ground, injuring his right knee, whereupon he began running for his life toward his office building. Gilchrist and his co-conspirator then fled in Mr. Redden's unmarked police car. A high speed chase ensued. Gilchrist and his co-conspirator escaped and exited the car. Gilchrist's fingerprint was found on the driver's side exterior of the carjacked vehicle. The pager he stole from Ms. Smith on July 8 was dropped by Gilchrist at the scene of the car jacking.

Less than two hours later, Gilchrist and the same co-conspirator entered the Chevy Chase Bank, 3532 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia, and demanded money by pointing the gun at tellers and customers. Gilchrist entered the bank first. His co-conspirator saw a man outside the bank at an ATM machine, put a gun to the back of the man's head and demanded that he enter the bank. Inside the bank, Gilchrist told customers and tellers in the bank that he would "execute them" if they did not follow his orders. Gilchrist and his co-conspirator received approximately \$22,000 in federally insured money. While fleeing from the scene of the bank robbery in his Jeep Cherokee, now painted gray, Gilchrist failed to yield and nearly collided with another car on Columbia Pike. The other driver became angry and followed Gilchrist. Gilchrist escaped and abandoned his car at a government office building in Washington D.C. The car was recovered on July 19, 2001. Dye stained money, a bullet and bullet casing and other items were found in the car.

On July 13, 2001, the evening of the car jacking and the Chevy Chase bank robbery, the FBI went to Gilchrist's home to question him. Gilchrist's mother testified that Gilchrist was not home but that she advised Gilchrist by telephone that the FBI wanted to question him about the use of

his car in a bank robbery. Gilchrist hung up on her. On July 19, 2001 while in the District of Columbia, a marked D.C. police officer attempted to stop Gilchrist who was then driving a brown sedan. Gilchrist fled from the officer committing serious traffic violations including driving the wrong way on a one way street. Eventually, Gilchrist caused a serious traffic accident and attempted to flee on foot. He was subdued after a brief chase by the D.C. police officer.

Gilchrist was indicted by a federal grand jury on June 2002. He was also charged with a fourth bank robbery in June 2002, but the jury acquitted him of that charge.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Prince George's County Police Department, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Sandra Wilkinson and Deborah A. Johnston.